

**Subject:** The Cedillo Weekly 02/27/15

**From:** "Gilbert Cedillo" <Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org>

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**To:** "mistyli@aol.com" <mistyli@aol.com>



Friends,

This week was busy with several legislative items that are priorities for me. I was able to discuss the need for additional money to build out affordable housing, provide resources to our most vulnerable – our homeless population; and continue to educate folks on AB 60, DACA/DAPA.

The City Council approved my motion requesting the Housing Department to track the most recent decision by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to lift the suspension on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (GSEs) to allocate funds to the National Housing Trust Fund. It is important for us to continue to track these monies to ensure the City receives its fair share, every bit helps in order for us to build affordable housing in Los Angeles.

In Housing Committee we received a presentation from the Mayor's staff, the VA, HACLA, and LAHSA on the Mayor's Pledge to End Veteran Homelessness by 2015.

Los Angeles' homeless population represents 9% of the national total and includes the most homeless veterans – more than 6,000- in the Country. I was happy to hear that we are half way done with our goal and on track to house and additional 3,154 veterans by end of this year!

We also heard a report from the CAO in response to a motion I authored asking for an accounting in the City's investment on homeless services.

This was an important step forward to fully comprehend how we can use all of our City's resources in an effective and efficient manner as we address homelessness.

It was also a pleasure to have CA State Treasurer, John Chiang join me in committee this week. He was able to update committee members on affordable housing policy happening at the State level, giving us confidence that our State legislators are also focused on solving our housing crisis.

In closing, don't forget to vote this coming Tuesday! If you need assistance in locator or polling location, please contact the City Clerk's Office by clicking here: [March 3, Elections](#). As I shared with you in the past, it is our duty to be involved in our electoral process. Please take some time to vote.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

- Gil

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **Culture Clash Chavez Ravine Recognition**

This Friday morning at the City Council meeting, Councilmember Cedillo honored Culture Clash and the Center Theatre Group for the production of Chavez Ravine. The Chavez Ravine play tells the true story of the Mexican-American community that lived in the ravine for generations; of the neighborhoods that once stood where Dodger Stadium's field, bleachers, and parking lot are now; and how and why they lost their homes.

Councilmember Cedillo congratulated Culture Clash on their thirty years of artistic performances as the nation's most prominent Chicano-Latinos performance troupe.

For more information, please visit this link on [Chavez Ravine](#).

## **Engineers Week**

This week we kicked off the Second Annual Engineers Week at City Hall. It was founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers to celebrate the many contributions engineers make to our everyday life.

Councilmember Gil Cedillo partnered with the American Society of Civil Engineers to host a weeklong series of activities. This year's event was co-hosted by Councilmember Joe Buscaino, and Councilmember Curren Price and held the theme of "Let's Make a Difference". The primary goal of Engineers Week is to outreach to K-12 and college students by introducing them to the fields of government and engineering while promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in our communities.

Activities included an egg drop contest and science fair for 250 elementary students; a sustainable street design competition and technical presentations for 200 high school students; women in engineering and leadership day with activities for 100 high school girls; a "Professionals Night Reception" where more than 300 engineers from the public and private sector gathered to celebrate their contributions to the City of LA; and a college day where more than 150 college students participated in technical presentations, engineering group activities and more.

Councilman Cedillo would like to thank all of our partners who made this week possible.

## **Fighting for Affordable Housing**

On Thursday Councilmember Gil Cedillo joined the California Reinvestment Coalition to ask questions about the proposed CIT Group and One West Bank Merger.

A press conference held at the Federal Reserve Bank prior to the public hearing where the merger was to be discussed, helped to raise concerns on the impact such merger would have on the community. Cedillo, along with 25,000 individuals, asked that such a large transaction include community benefits in the form of affordable housing investments.

Photo credit: California Reinvestment Coalition

### **Diane Rodriguez Nomination to National Council on the Arts**

Councilmember Cedillo was extremely pleased and delighted that President Obama nominated Diane Rodriguez to the National Council on the Arts this week. Diane is an accomplished actress, producer and director with experience working at Los Angeles Center Theatre Group. She would be a magnificent addition to the Council.

On Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Councilmember Gil Cedillo introduced a resolution in support of Ms. Rodriguez nomination and confirmation by the U.S. Senate. [Copy of Resolution Click Here.](#)

Photo credit: diane-rodriguez.com

### **National Housing Trust Fund Update**

The full City Council adopted Councilman Cedillo's motion to instruct the Housing Department to continue to monitor the National Housing Trust Fund. As the City continues to struggle to build sufficient affordable

housing, this is an important priority for the Councilman. Any money that would help support LA's local housing trust fund is an important tool to increase our affordable housing demands.

The National Housing Trust Fund is the first new federal housing production program since the HOME program was created in 1990 and the first new production program specifically targeted to extremely low income households since the Section 8 program was created in 1974.

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) instructed the GSEs to contribute annually to the Funds, but this action was suspended by then-FHFA Acting Director Ed DeMarco. In December of 2014 the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) announced it was lifting this suspension, and directing Government-Sponsored Enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the GSEs) to begin setting aside and allocating funds to the Housing Trust Fund and the Capital Magnet Fund (the Funds).

Councilmember Cedillo heard on update in Housing Committee this week, where the committee members learned that funds will become available sixty days after the 2015 calendar, and estimates project money being available to States by the summer of 2016.

Estimates vary since funds are still being invested by the two GSEs, but based on nationwide numbers, California is estimated to receive:

- **\$29.9 million** at the \$250 million NHTF investment level
- **\$82 million** at the \$500 million NHTF investment level
- **\$120 million** at ~ \$15 million NHTF investment level

The NHTF will, once capitalized, provide communities with funds to build, preserve, and rehabilitate rental homes that are affordable for extremely and very low income households.

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## FIELD UPDATE

## **Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council addresses Homelessness**

This Tuesday the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council sponsored a Town Hall Meeting on Homelessness with the participation of the City Attorney's Office, Hollenbeck SLO Officers, LAHSA, Homeless advocates, Park Ranger, Councilmember Huizar's Office, Councilmember Cedillo's office and others.

The meeting created a safe space for neighbors to express their various concerns in regards to the homeless in the Arroyo Seco. The majority of whom empathized with the hardships of being homeless, questioning how the City could help many of these individuals transition off the streets. There were also neighbors who were concerned with the safety of the area. The meeting shed light on the various points of views from all community members.

Deputy Sylvia Robledo participated in the panel, explaining the complexities of the issue which is homelessness. Councilman Cedillo, as chair of Housing understands that the core issue is the lack of affordable housing and the need for supportive services in our communities.

Cedillo continues to advocate for funding that would help the City increase its affordable housing stock, but also hopes to find efficiencies on how the City allocates resources for homeless services. Cedillo has asked the City Administrative Office to conduct a review of the resources by the various departments on activities related to homelessness - hoping this will inform the policy makers on how the City can improve on its delivery model.

In the interim, he was successful in implementing a \$5M Clean Streets Program city-wide last year to address issues associated with homeless, and homeless encampments.

The Councilman applauds the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council for taking on such a complex issue and looks forward to working with them in partnership as he works to address these concerns.

Photo Credit: Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council

## **Chinese New Year Parade**

This past Sunday, thousands of people converged into Chinatown to celebrate the Lunar New Year 2015, Year of the Ram at the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual L.A. Golden Dragon Parade. Councilmember Gil Cedillo joined the celebration that is one of the largest and oldest in the country. Participants enjoyed the lion dancer and other Chinese traditional performances throughout the parade. Chinatown businesses were at capacity, as people indulged in Chinatown's favorite eateries such as Yang Chow, Master Chef and New Dragon Seafood as well as our newer spots such as Ramen Champ and Pok Pok in Far East Plaza. Parade-goers lined the streets with confetti as we celebrated the New Year, LA style.

The East Wind Foundation for Youth's lion dance troop closed out the parade with a bang (literally) with thousands of firecrackers exploding at Cesar Chavez and Broadway. The celebration continued after the parade with the Chinatown Business Improvement District hosting activities at the Central Plaza, which included DJ's, food trucks, and a beer garden. Thank you to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event every year.

## **AB 60 Workshop**

Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo's office hosted a workshop on AB 60 and DACA/DAPA at the El Centro del Pueblo Cypress Park Family Source Center. The workshop served to provide valuable information on how to pass driver's license with test tips, as well as to receive updates on the Presidents' executive action. Team Cedillo was pleased to welcome more than 50 people, and look forward to hosting additional workshops throughout the district.

The workshop was in partnership with the California Department of Motor Vehicle, the Mexican Consulate, Saber Es Poder, Hermandad Mexicana and El Centro De Pueblo.

### **Keep it Clean Update: Flat Top Gets a Sprucing Up!**

Team Cedillo supported a clean-up sponsored by the Montecito Heights Home Improvement Association this past Saturday. Community residents worked diligently to pick up tumbleweed and trash that had gathered at Flat Top. The neighbors take pride of this open space which sits practically in their backyard. Everyone is grateful to Supervisor Molina and Councilmember Cedillo for preserving this land for future generations to appreciate.

### **Elysian Park Road Improvement**

MEGA KUDOS to our Recreation and Parks' Staff for working with Team Cedillo to move forward the greatly needed repairs of our Elysian Park roads in anticipation of the 2015 Year of the Ram Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker 5k/10k Run. The Elysian Park Road Resurfacing program was funded through \$2.3 million Proposition K funds.

Recreation and Parks' resurfacing of Elysian Park Roads commenced in late January and they have been working hard and doing their best to resurface and install temporary patches before this weekend's annual Los Angeles Firecracker 5k & 10K run.

All of Angels point to Park Row Drive has been completed. 50% of Point Grandview has already been resurfaced and the remaining 50% will be completed by the end of this week in time for the Firecracker Run. Although Park Row Drive to North Broadway will not be resurfaced in time for this weekend's Firecracker Run, Recreation and Parks maintenance crews have been working hard to fill the potholes with soil or decomposed granite to make it safe and friendly for our runners and



walkers. The crews are ahead of their target completion date of April 2015.

Thank you City Staff for helping us make Council District One #1!

### **Ramona Hall Street Safety**

At the annual North East Recreation and Parks Community meeting held at Ramona Hall, a staff member commented that it was unsafe to exit the parking lot because of the blind spot to the left of the curb. The curved street and parked cars made it difficult for exiting cars to see incoming traffic.

Team Cedillo listened to the concern, understanding children and parents were at risk when leaving the parking lot. With some work with the Department of Transportation, we were able to get the curbside painted red to eliminate the blind spot and increase street safety.

We would like to send our thank you to Chun Leung and Mehrdad Moshksar of Department of Transportation for working with our office in getting this done.

### **Lincoln Heights Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner**

This week, Deputy District Director Rodriguez administered the oath for the installation of board officers and directors of the Lincoln Heights Chamber of Commerce. The dinner was held at the beautiful San Antonio Winery and was attended by over 75 business leaders from Lincoln Heights. Congratulations to all the board officers and directors who volunteered and are dedicated to improving the business climate and quality of life in Lincoln Heights. We look forward to continuing our work together.

For more information about the chamber and to become a member contact the Lincoln Heights Chamber of Commerce at (323) 221-6571.

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## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

### **Firecracker Run**



### **District Office Art Exhibit**

### **The Highland Park Theatre Turns 90**

### **The Wall las Memorias Open House**

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If you would like to be added to our newsletter, submit an article submission, calendar events please email [Louis.reyes@lacity.org](mailto:Louis.reyes@lacity.org) every Wednesday by 1:00 pm deadline to be published in the upcoming Friday edition. We reserve the right to copy edit or refuse submissions.

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